WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A substantially pure GD2 ligand of Formula I:

$$Z_1 - X_1 - X_2 - X_3 - X_4 - X_5 - X_6 - X_7 - X_8 - X_9 - X_{10} - X_{11} - X_{12} - X_{13} - Z_2 \quad (I)$$

wherein
X_1 is absent or Y or an analogue thereof;
X_2 is absent or C or an analogue thereof;
X_3 is G or Y or an analogue thereof;
X_4 is G or C or Y or an analogue thereof;
X_5 is I or C or an analogue thereof;
X_6 is T or A or an analogue thereof;
X_7 is N or an analogue thereof;
X_8 is Y or an analogue thereof;
X_9 is N or G or an analogue thereof;
X_{10} is S or C or V or T or an analogue thereof;
X_{11} is A or C or Y or H or S or an analogue thereof;
X_{12} is absent or L or C or Y or an analogue thereof;
X_{13} is absent or M or Y or an analogue thereof;
Z_1 is an N-terminal group of the formula H2N-, RHN- or, RRN-;
Z_2 is a C-terminal group of the formula -C(O)OH, -C(O)R, -C(O)OR, -C(O)NHR, -C(O)NRR;
R at each occurrence is independently selected from (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkenyl, (C_1-C_6) alkynyl, substituted (C_1-C_6) alkyl, substituted (C_1-C_6) alkenyl, or substituted (C_1-C_6) alkynyl;
and wherein "-" is a covalent linkage.

2. A substantially pure synthetic GD2 ligand or recombinant GD2 ligand having a domain of Formula II:

$$- X_1 - X_2 - X_3 - X_4 - X_5 - X_6 - X_7 - X_8 - X_9 - X_{10} - X_{11} - X_{12} - X_{13} - \quad (II)$$

wherein

X_1 is absent or Y or an analogue thereof;

X_2 is absent or C or an analogue thereof;

X_3 is G or Y or an analogue thereof;

X_4 is G or C or Y or an analogue thereof;

X_5 is I or C or an analogue thereof;

X_6 is T or A or an analogue thereof;

X_7 is N or an analogue thereof;

X_8 is Y or an analogue thereof;

X_9 is N or G or an analogue thereof;

X_{10} is S or C or V or T or an analogue thereof;

X_{11} is A or C or Y or H or S or an analogue thereof;

X_{12} is absent or L or C or Y or an analogue thereof;

X_{13} is absent or M or Y or an analogue thereof;

and wherein "-" is a covalent linkage.

3. The GD2 ligand of claim 1 or 2, wherein the ligand further comprises a cyclic linkage between any two of X_1 through X_{13}.

4. The GD2 ligand of claim 1, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of: GGITNYNSALM; YCGGITNYNSACY; YCITNYNSCY; YCGGITNYNCY; YCTNYGVHCY; YCTNYGVCY; GGIANYNTS; YCGGIANYNCY; YCGGIANYNTSCY; and, YCIANYNTCY.

5. The GD2 ligand of claim 2, wherein the domain is selected from the group consisting of: GGITNYNSALM; YCGGITNYNSACY; YCITNYNSCY; YCGGITNYNCY; YCTNYGVHCY; YCTNYGVCY; GGIANYNTS; YCGGIANYNCY; YCGGIANYNTSCY; and, YCIANYNTCY.

6. A method of treating a subject having a disease wherein disease cells express GD2, the method comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of the GD2 ligand of any one of claims 1 through 5.

7. A method of diagnosis of a disease wherein disease cells express GD2, comprising determining whether a cell from a subject binds to the GD2 ligand of any one of claims 1 through 5.

8. The method of claim 6 or 7 wherein the method is carried out *in vitro*.

9. The method of claim 6 or 7 wherein the method is carried out *in vivo*.

10. The method of claim 6, further comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the GD2 ligand of any one of claims 1 through 5, together with an effective amount of granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor.

12. A commercial package comprising the GD2 ligand of any one of claims 1 through 5, together with instructions for using the GD2 ligand to modulate GD2 activity or detect cells expressing GD2.

13. The GD2 ligand of claim 2, wherein the GD2 ligand is a recombinant T-cell receptor.

14. The GD2 ligand of claim 13, wherein the recombinant T-cell receptor is expressed in a cytotoxic T cell line.

15. An isolated GD2 ligand substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to the examples.

16. A method of ablating a cell line, comprising transforming the cell line to provide transformed cells that express GD2, and treating the transformed cells with an effective amount of the GD2 ligand of claim 1 or 2.

17. The use of a GD2 ligand of any one of claims 1 through 5 to formulate a medicament to treat a disease wherein diseases cells express GD2.

18. The use of a GD2 ligand according to claim 17, wherein the disease is a cancer.

19. The use of a GD2 ligand according to claim 18, wherein the cancer is a neuroblastoma.

20. A method of screening to identify or validate a putative GD2 ligand, comprising:

a) administering a putative GD2 ligand to a system having a GD2 moiety and a $p56^{Lck}$ moiety available for association; and,

f) measuring an association or functional relationship between the GD2 and the $p56^{Lck}$ moieties in the system.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the putative GD2 ligand comprises a polypeptide or a non-peptidic analog such as a peptidomimetic that displays the same pharmacophore or has similar side chain functional groups.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the putative GD2 ligand is derived from tenascin-R.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the system is a cell expressing GD2 and $p56^{Lck}$.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the GD2 moiety is native GD2.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the $p56^{Lck}$ moiety is native $p56^{Lck}$.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein the association between the GD2 and the $p56^{Lck}$ moieties is measured by determining a kinase activity of the $p56^{Lck}$ moiety.